



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY

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ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 6, 1860.

CONGRESS.—The Homestead bill occupied the Senate again yesterday, but no conclusion thereon was arrived at. The House of Representatives passed the anti-polygamy bill, and during a flagitious anti-slavery speech of Mr. Lovejoy, of Ill., much confusion occurred.

The returns from the Rhode Island election show the triumph of the candidates proposed by the conservative men of that State. Whigs, Americans, and Democrats made common cause against the Black Republican party, and defeated it. We trust that this promise of a return of New England to a full compliance with constitutional obligations, and a cessation of strife against the compact our fathers entered into, may not be without fulfillment. What a glorious thing it would be if such a triumph as has been won in Rhode Island, could be achieved in every State that is unfaithful of its obligations to the Federal Union.

The New York Historical Society commemorated the birthday of the late Washington Irving, at the Academy of Music, in that city, on Tuesday evening, which was crowded with the elite of the city, both in fashion and letters. The commemorative address was delivered by Wm. C. Bryant, esq., in which he reviewed, with his usual brilliancy of rhetoric and poetic power, the life and works of the illustrious deceased. The assemblage was also addressed in brief, by G. C. Verplanck, esq., Hon. Edward Everett, and by ex-Governor King. The Rev. Dr. Creighton opened with an appropriate prayer, and the Rev. Dr. De Witt closed the interesting ceremonies.

The committee on the Pacific Railroad of the House of Representatives, have agreed upon the following plan of location for the road. Starting from two points, one on the border of Missouri and the other on the western border of Iowa, with two converging lines leaving westward and uniting within two hundred miles of the Missouri river, thence proceeding by a single trunk line by the nearest and best route to the bay of San Francisco. The above route is the one proposed by Col. Curtis. The committee passed a resolution that the road should be constructed of American iron.

The following European steamers are now fully due:—The Kangaroo and Bremen, which sailed on the 21st ult., for New York, the former from Liverpool and the latter from Southampton. The Canadian left Liverpool on the same day for Portland; and the Niagara sailed for Halifax on the 24th. The news by these steamers is anxiously looked for.

A portion of the Everett House, one of the fashionable up-town hotels in New York, has been sold at auction for \$101,000 to Mr. Adam Norrie. The property has a frontage of 54 feet on Seventeenth street and 100 feet on Seventh avenue. The entire hotel rents for \$30,000 a year.

The financial year of the American Bible Society closed on Saturday last, March 31st. The past year has been one of great prosperity; the total receipts were four hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars, and the number of volumes issued, seven hundred and fifty-two thousand.

The new steel bell, manufactured in Sheffield, England, for San Francisco, was tried in the New York Park on Saturday and voted a humbug. It is said the sound made by it is sharp and quick, but not so strong, loud or lasting as that of bells of the common bell-metal.

The examination in New York in the case of the Chinaman Jackalow, who is charged with the murder of Capt. Leete and brother, of the sloop Spray, has been concluded, and the prisoner was committed to answer for the crimes of murder and robbery.

The English government has raised the export duty on saltpetre from British India, from its present rate of about 9s. per ton, to £6 per ton—a measure expected to produce an additional revenue of more than £150,000. The total export of saltpetre last year, from Calcutta alone, was 25,803 tons.

Complete returns of the State election in Connecticut, show that Mr. Buckingham, the Republican candidate, has been re-elected Governor by a majority of 571 votes. The Republican majority last year was 1,870 votes.

Hon. Jefferson Davis has been some time an invalid from severe inflammation in his eye, rendering a surgical operation necessary. He has now so far recovered, that he hopes to resume his seat in the Senate in two or three days.

A firm in Waterbury, Conn., by an ingenious application to the ordinary whistle of their engines, awakens the whole town at 6 A. M., and calls their hands together at 7 A. M., and 1 P. M., by a steam gong that is easily heard five miles distant.

The price of brandy in the New York market has advanced in consequence of advances from Europe. Sales were made on Tuesday at \$3.05/\$3.35 per gallon for Cognac, and \$2.20/\$2.40 for Rochelle.

The Indiana delegation to Charleston are to carry their own provisions—cheese, crackers and Bologna sausages!

In the United States there are about 200,000 Jews, while there are in all England only 35,000.

The London correspondent of the Manchester Examiner announces an important movement on foot for the amalgamation of three of the London high priced journals, for the purpose of the Parliamentary law and police reports. A great saving will also be effected in the mechanical work by resorting to stereotyping. The arrangement will destroy these papers of anything like individuality except so far as regards their leaders and foreign correspondence. "This new style" says the Examiner, "will be generally accepted as a desperate effort to maintain a position which a cheaper, and not less ably conducted, journalism is daily rendering more and more untenable to all except the one high priced newspaper."

A very voluminous document was sent to the Senate on Wednesday, embracing correspondence relative to the administration of justice in Utah. The judges defended themselves at great length from the censures of the Attorney General, as contained in a letter which has been published, and the district attorney likewise defended himself from charges of the judges as to his alleged inefficiency. The Attorney General's opinion of the judges may be inferred from the fact that he urges the district attorney to resist their usurpation of his proper functions, and that their insisting upon doing the duties of attorney and marshal, will destroy the peace of the Territory.

An entire block of sixteen brick and stone buildings, 320 feet long and from 90 to 140 feet deep, was raised last week by means of screws in Chicago. The buildings covered about an acre of ground, and weighed over twenty-five thousand tons. They were raised a distance of four feet ten inches, by means of six thousand screws placed beneath. The operation probably has never been performed to so great an extent before. It was accomplished at the rate of about one foot per day. None of the houses were less than four stories high, one was six stories, and eight were five.

The Minot's Ledge light house, which is to take the place of the one destroyed by the fearful gale of April, 1851, has reached the height of sixty feet of the one hundred and eighty-five feet nine inches which is the intended elevation. The first blow was struck on the Ledge Sunday morning at sunrise, July 1st, 1855, and in excavating the foundation pit, only one hundred and thirty hours work could be performed during the season. The first stone was laid July 6th, 1857. It is believed that the building will be complete and ready for occupancy as early as the summer of 1861.

A recent letter from Paris reports that the modes in the gay metropolis, daily become more showy and extravagant. The letter adds: "While viewing the rich, varied and elegant articles that are presented to our notice, we are led to inquire where shall we find sufficient wearers, or gold to purchase such luxuries. Never has there been so great a demand for costly laces and embroideries, and magnificent materials of all descriptions. Gold glitter on all articles of dress: velvets, moires and brocades are all embroidered with gold."

A contract has been concluded between the French government and certain houses in London, for the manufacture of a submarine telegraphic cable, which is about to be laid down between Marseilles and Oran (Algeria) about May next. It is stated that a portion of the cable has already been made, that the French government give a subvention of £40,000, and that the balance of the capital required will be raised in England by means of a public company.

On Sunday last a severe hail storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, passed over Charleston and Augusta. The hail stones, it is stated, were of exceeding large size and irregularly shaped—some round and flat, while others were large and cylindrical. One hail stone, probably larger than the average, measured one inch and a quarter lengthwise and the same in girth. At Wilmington, N. C., on the same day, there was a heavy fall of rain.

At Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday, the case of Bowers vs. Preston and others, to recover damages for alienating the affections of his wife, has been again decided in the Superior Court, the jury awarding \$800 damages to the plaintiff. \$100 was the award on the first trial. An effort will be made to carry the case up to the Supreme Court on a writ of error.

It is announced that Prof. Greenough, of New Orleans, has succeeded, after much investigation, in impregnating common burning fluid, or camphene, with carbonic acid gas as a neutralizing agent, which, leaving the inflammable nature of the fluid unchanged, makes it unexplosive, and consequently harmless.

The friends of Rev. T. Starr King, of New York, gave that gentleman a complimentary breakfast at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, on Wednesday morning. Wm. C. Bryant, esq., presided, and among those present were Hon. Horace Greeley, Henry J. Raymond, Rev. Drs. Osgood, Bellows and others.—[What next.]

The statue of John Adams, intended for the cemetery at Mount Auburn, has reached Boston, and will soon be placed in position. The statue was shipped in Leghorn on board a vessel, which, after various delays by accident, finally put into Savannah, where it was consigned.

Henry E. Wright, esq., a prominent citizen of Queen Anne's county, Md., died last week. He was formerly a member of the Legislature, served in the State constitutional convention, and at one time was a Whig candidate for Congress.

Josephus Barbee, of N. C., has recovered a verdict for \$2,200, against the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Company, for injuries sustained by the breaking of the axle of one of their cars, a year or two since.

It has been officially announced in the Canadian Parliament that the Prince of Wales would not leave England on his visit to America before the 10th of July.

The Zoological Society of London, have just received an important addition to their menagerie, in the shape of a fine living specimen of the gigantic salamander of Japan, the largest known species of amphibian. This singular creature, which somewhat resembles a monstrous water-newt, inhabits the lakes of the basaltic mountains of Japan, where it was discovered by the Dutch naturalist Dr. Von Siebold, but even there it is considered a scarce animal. It is famous as being the nearest living analogue of the Fossil Man or *Azoo didactylus* of Schuchert. The Society's specimen is at present about three feet in length, and is the first of the sort which has been imported.

SALE OF LAND.—We learn that Mr. Geo. H. Hillyear has disposed of two hundred and twenty-nine acres of land, near this place, east of the Collington Branch, to Mr. Richard S. Hill, for the sum of \$55 per acre.—This land was a part of the real estate of the late Henry Hillyear, and adjoins the lands of Mr. Hill.—*Mariboro' (Md.) Planter's Adv.*

Virginia News.

TRIAL FOR BIGAMY.—Henry Jenkins, formerly of Page county, was tried before the Circuit Court of Shenandoah, which commenced its session on Friday last, charged with the crime of bigamy. It was proved that he had a wife and some four or five children in the State of Page—that his wife was taken to the poor house of that county, some two or three years ago, where she still remains. He came to Shenandoah about eighteen months since and was extensively engaged in selling fruit trees—professing to have a nursery in Rockingham, and succeeded in imposing upon many of our citizens, by selling them worthless sprouts which he had taken from various orchards in the county; and in some instances, sold sycamore for pear trees, pawpaw for plums, and so on. In the month of February, 1859, he became acquainted with Miss Mary Slupe, and by his pleasing address and fair promises, succeeded in inducing her to marry him. In January last the fact that he had a wife and children living in Page became known, and he was accordingly arrested and committed to trial. He was ably and ingeniously defended by Messrs. Allen & Walton, and prosecuted by Mr. Bird, esq., attorney for the commonwealth. The case was given to the jury on Saturday, but they did not agree upon a verdict until Monday morning, when they found him guilty and fixed his term of confinement in the penitentiary at three years and ten months. The defence relied upon the plea of insanity for an acquittal.—*Woodstock Tenth Legion.*

The forty-seventh annual meeting of the Bible Society of Virginia, was held at St. Paul's Church, Richmond, on Wednesday. In the absence of the venerable President, Rev. Philip Courtney, Rev. George Woodbridge, first Vice President, took the chair and called the Society to order. Rev. Dr. Moore presented the annual report, which he read, and which was most encouraging to the Society. It showed that, for the past year, the interest in the objects of the organization had increased in every department throughout the entire State. A larger number of families had been visited, more books had been given away and sold, and a greater amount of money had been collected than in the previous year. The aggregate amount received from all sources, was over \$13,000. The Bible Society of Virginia is about two years older than the American Bible Society, and has effected a great deal towards the inculcation of the Bible in this State.—Its good work will be continued, and thousands will have the gospel furnished them this year through its agency.

FIRE.—We learn that a fire broke out in the woods near Rogers' shop, in this county, on Saturday last, and extended for several miles, doing much damage to timber, and destroying large numbers of rails and fencing, belonging to Dr. Terrill and others. It is not known how the fire originated.

On Friday night last, about 11 o'clock a double cabin belonging to Mr. Thomas Scott, a short distance from this place, was consumed by fire. The cabin was occupied by some of Mr. Scott's negroes; but none of them were in it at the time the fire first discovered. The fire was supposed to have been caused by negligence on the part of the servants.—*Orange Chronicle.*

The Fairfax News says:—It affords us sincere pleasure to announce that Mr. Alfred Moss is rapidly recovering from his late severe and painful illness. We know this will be welcome news to his friends everywhere, (and their name is legion) because it was felt by our citizens generally that a fatal termination of his disease would prove a public calamity.

The Democratic Convention of the Sixth Electoral District, which met in Richmond, on Wednesday, elected Messrs. W. D. Leake and Jeremiah Hobbs, delegates to the Charleston Convention, and Messrs. Edward W. Morris and Robert Dabney, alternates. The issue between the Wise and Hunter men was well contested, and the former triumphed.

The Clarke County Conservator says:—"An extensive fire has been raging for several days past in the mountain, a few miles east of this place. We have not heard the extent of the damage, but it must be considerable. The heavy rain of Sunday night we believe has entirely extinguished it."

The Richmond municipal election took place on Wednesday, Joseph Mayo, mayor, and all the other old officers were re-elected, and the amendment to the city charter, providing for the election of a Judge of the Hustings Court, ratified by a very large majority.

The Orange Chronicle says:—There was shipped from Orange Station, for the month ending the 31st March, 1776 bushels of Wheat, 1111 bushels Oats, 56 hds, or 67786 pounds of Tobacco, 138 barrels of Flour and 13781 miscellaneous articles.

A fire occurred at Waynesboro, Augusta county, Va., on the 27th ult., destroying the stage stable of Capt. Jones, and the stable of N. Massie, with 300 bushels of corn.

The New York correspondent of the Baltimore American says:—"Over eight months have elapsed since the arrest of Robert C. McDonald for the murder of the courtesan, Virginia Stewart, and the accused has not yet been brought to trial for the crime. Soon after the arrest the plea of insanity was raised by the prisoner's counsel, a commission was made out to take testimony in Mobile and elsewhere in substantiation of the same. During all this time the two young women who were unfortunately in company with Virginia Stewart at the time she was shot, have had their liberty curtailed, merely because their evidence is necessary, and the friends of McDonald are in a state of insanity. The girls have given in their testimony at the examining court; it has been taken down in black and white, yet they are still held as prisoners, (though it be in comfortable quarters), it would seem at the pleasure of the accused. McDonald appears to be perfectly sane, and is allowed everything he wants. The delay in his trial appears to be unaccountable, but, in reality, is perfectly plain, for money will do anything. Great indignation seems to be brewing at this glaring instance of the tardiness of the law. It is hard to tell when the trial will come off."

THE ASTOR LIBRARY GHOST.—Burling, the New York correspondent of the Boston Journal, in his last letter to that paper, writes:—Dr. Johnson said—"Say that a house in London has the plague, and all London will go and see it." I have spent a few days at the Astor Library. It is quite amusing to see the crowd that drift in to see the place where Dr. Cogswell used to see the plague. Ladies, especially, come in in couples, in fairs, alone and with male attendants; with a soft tread and an awe in their looks, with a trembling voice, they step from alcove to alcove, as if they thought the form of the spirit would start out and greet them. And when the Doctor is seen behind the counter (for he has come back), the small talk runs—"There, that is he," "there he is,"—showing how deeply the public mind is interested in the story of the haunted library, and proving that, after all that has been said and written on the matter, men as readily believe in the existence of ghosts to-day as they did eighteen hundred years ago, when the disciples thought their Lord was only a spirit.

Cost of Papers and Books in England.

Those who enjoy the advantages of cheap dailies in the United States, will find it difficult to realize the cost of the first class dailies of London. The Times stamped, costs each quarter 28 shillings and 6 pence, or 114 shillings per annum. Thus the Great Thunderer costs more than \$27 per annum. Unstamped, the Times is sent for £5 4s. The London Post can be had, postage free, for £4 12s. The Chronicle £4. Advertiser ditto; the Daily News £3 12s. There is one way of taking a newspaper in England which we have not yet learned, and which is published in the Times is furnished by London agents on the second day after its publication, at a reduced price. Thus a fair copy which has been read by some careful subscriber, is sent to the country—or to some one in the city, or to some foreign port for 19s. 6d. per quarter. In the matter of books the difference is equally great. The competition in book-making with us, and the absence of an international copyright, enable the American public to possess the very best books in the language at a most moderate price. The Mission of Lord Elgin to China, by the Harpers for \$2 75; yet Blackwood does the Scotch and English publishers, issue the work in two volumes at ten dollars and twenty-five cents. A cheap edition of Macaulay's History of England has been advertised by the Longmans in London, for \$10 25, while the ordinary library edition (4 vols.) costs \$15. The same work in our country is published all the way from \$1 (4 vol.) up to \$5. Murray sells in London Capt. McClintock's Voyage of the Fox, for sixteen English shillings, and at that rate twelve editions have already been sold.—Ticknor & Fields, of Boston, purchased the advanced sheets of the same work, and issued it in uniform style for \$1 25. Murray publishes the interesting Life and Letters of the late Bishop of Calcutta for twelve dollars, while Gould & Lincoln, of Boston, issue the same volume in a style equal to the English for \$3.

OPENING THE GRAVE OF ROGER WILLIAMS.—The Providence Journal, in giving an account of the exhumation of the remains of Roger Williams, says that it is known that the family burial place was the field back of the house of the late Sullivan Burr, esq. The fact has been handed down, that about the year 1740, his grave was encroached upon by a new grave prepared for one of his descendants, which seems to show that its locality was not remarked then. There is no later account of it. One of the descendants of Mr. Williams, Mr. Shadrack Randall, of North Providence, has recently tried to determine the spot, and if he could recover any remains, to remove them to a more public and secure deposit. Last Thursday the grave was opened. Two graves were found running into each other, and within a few feet the one furthest west was that of Williams.

But no distinguishable remains could be found. A number of nails, a small fragment of wood, undoubtedly of the coffin, and a mass of black earth was all that could be reclaimed. The contents of the grave, such as they were, were taken to a tomb in the North Burial Ground. Mr. Randall intends, with a pious care which does him honor, to remove all the remains which may be disclosed by further search, and give them burial in the public ground. On that day four graves were opened, though none of them appeared to be children, were uncovered. Two graves there had run into each other through the graves, and by absorbing somewhat of their contents, had very likely hastened their decomposition.

The Wheat Crop.

The wheat crop of this county, we are sorry to say, presents at this time a very unpromising aspect. It is never more backward in our recollection than it is this season. The severe weather that we have had for several months past, and the harsh winds of March, have brought about this state of affairs, and unless we have some refreshing showers very soon, we very much fear the crop will be a short one in this section.—This complaint is not confined to this locality, but we notice the same mentioned in most of our exchanges. The Leonard Town Beacon of Thursday last, in noticing the prospect in St. Mary's, says:—"We regret to be compelled to state, that the wheat prospect in this county at present is very unpromising, the crop being unusually backward and presenting a sickly and unthrifty appearance. Much of the wheat has been winter-killed, and the likelihood is, that the yield ensuing harvest will fall much below the average quantity." This statement is based upon a personal observation of the crop in this district, and upon the accounts of reliable gentlemen from the different localities of the county.—*Flowers' Advocate.* The Port Tobacco Times says:—"Farmers from various parts of the county, are complaining that the cold dry weather of late, has very much retarded the crop, and indeed, much is killed out entirely. From all accounts, there cannot be a full crop in this county, under the most favorable auspices."

The Modern Gladiators.

The Mobile Register, in announcing the death of Mrs. Eliza Morrissey, by drowning in Troy, and her relation to a prize-fighter, makes some well timed allusions to the folly of placing these "shoulder-bitters" so prominently before the public, and adds:—"Morrissey was on board a steamer, ready to sail for Liverpool to attend the 'champion match,' when he heard of his mother's death. He simply replied that he supposed that the authorities would see her decently put under ground, and went on. Yet such brutes in human shape are glorified into national champions, and respectable newspapers devote columns to elaborate details of their points, and send special reporters to Europe to have the earliest intelligence of their encounters. What a thin coat of whitewash civilization still is, albeit this is the nineteenth century!"

Prestidigitants.

Northern "labor" at Charleston will have "an irrepressible conflict" with Southern "capital" when the latter charges ten dollars a day for board.

Somebody says that mirth and jollity make more warm friends to stick to you than any other disposition. This may be true, but we are sure that without *gravity*, old mother earth wouldn't stick to us long.

Pope Pius IX. undoubtedly has the power of opening the eyes of the devoted followers of the cross, since upon him devolve the duty of making the Holy See.

We should judge the drama to be more of a sylvan than sylvan profession, from the number of Woods and Forests and Groves engaged in it.

THE SUGAR SUPPLY.—At the meeting of an association recently held in Liverpool, it was stated from official returns, that prior to 1834 the average export of sugar from Jamaica to England was sixty-seven thousand tons, and now it hardly reached thirty thousand tons. In Cuba the exports for the same period, from Havana and Matanzas, had increased from eighty-two thousand to two hundred and forty thousand tons; and from Brazil the exports for the same period had augmented from sixty-three thousand to one hundred and twenty thousand tons. Hayti, which formerly exported a large quantity, has ceased to export, and imports a small quantity for its own consumption. The supply from Mauritius and the East Indies is slowly increasing.

Municipal Elections.

NEW YORK, April 4.—The Brooklyn charter election yesterday, resulted in the success of the soft democracy, Edmund Briggs being elected collector of taxes and assessments, Bernard O'Neill commissioner of repairs and supplies, and Charles Tierney street commissioner. Of the aldermen elect, 7 are democrats to 2 republicans, and of the supervisors 11 are democrats to 8 republicans.

ALBANY, N. Y., April 3.—At the charter election here today the democrats elected nearly their entire ticket.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., April 3.—Benj. T. Potter, republican, was today elected mayor by 400 majority over the democratic candidate.

BUFFALO, N. Y., April 3.—At the election yesterday the democrats carried the entire municipal ticket.

CINCINNATI, April 3.—At the election held yesterday, for city and ward officers, the democrats elected their entire ticket by an average majority of 700. The democrats elect 9 councilmen, and the republicans 8.—There was an opposition majority in the city.

DETROIT, Mich., April 3.—The municipal election yesterday passed off quietly. The opposition elected their mayor, marshal and five councilmen, and the democrats one councilman and the balance of the city officers.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., April 3.—At the municipal election today, Lynde, democrat, was elected mayor by 1,000 majority. The democrats also elect their comptroller and city attorney. The republicans elect their treasurer by from two to four hundred majority.

TOLEDO, Ohio, April 3.—At the municipal election yesterday the central republican ticket, with the exception of one councilman, one assessor, and one constable, was elected, by average majorities of 170.

Frauds in Gold and Silver Ware.

The practice of adulterating the precious metals is carried to such an extent that nine-tenths of all the so-called "gold ornaments," bracelets, pins, rings, chains, &c., worn by both sexes, may be fairly estimated to contain on an average, not over 20 per cent. of real gold. My informant assures me that in one case a heavy gold fob chain, bought in Broadway at a cost of eighty dollars, deposited at the Assay Office for melting, was upon assay found to contain just eight dollars' worth of gold, the balance of weight being made up of an alloy of copper and zinc. Large lots of gold ornaments, estimated by their owners at a value of sixteen dollars to the ounce, not unfrequently return a twentieth, and seldom over a tenth of their supposed value. In the article of gold watches, the most enormous frauds are perpetrated. I am warranted in asserting that scarcely one in a hundred of the gold watches for sale in the stores, and so prodigally worn by "Young America," are what they purport to be, or intrinsically worth ten per cent. above the cost of manufacture. In the sale of silver ware, the same deception is practiced, though not to so great an extent. A large lot of table ware lately purchased from an extensive Broadway dealer, and guaranteed to contain ninety per cent. of silver, upon test showed a deficiency of twelve per cent. below stated value. In still another case, a gentleman of my acquaintance deposited with a leading manufacturer of silver ware, a quantity of Mexican dollars to be made into forks and spoons of a specified value, ninety per cent. pure silver. Subsequent examination proved a fraud of nearly fifty per cent.—*N. Y. Cor. of the Schenectady Republican.*

Total Eclipse of the Sun in July next.

The total eclipse of the Sun, which will occur on the 18th of July next, is regarded by astronomers as the most important which will be witnessed during the present century. It will be visible as a partial eclipse throughout the United States, but will be total in a small part of Oregon and Washington Territories. The central line of the moon's shadow will strike the coast 15 miles north of the mouth of the Columbia river (lat. 46° 25' N.) soon after sunrise, and the breadth of the shadow there will be 80 miles. Moving thence in a north-east direction, it will pass near to Olympia, across the southern extremity of Platteau Lake, and north of Lake Winnipeg, to York Factory, in latitude 57° North, and on the south-west side of Hudson's Bay. At Fort York, the breadth of the shadow will be 105 miles. It will leave this continent at Cape Chidley, (or Chudleigh), the north-east point of Labrador, in latitude 59° North, and, bending first eastward and afterwards to the south-east, after traversing the Atlantic Ocean, it will reach Spain near to Santander, on the Bay of Biscay. The shadow will next pass over the entire surface of the waters of the river Ebro; nearly all of the Balearic Islands, except Minorca; strike the African coast, Cape Carbon; pass to the south of Tripoli; and, finally, at 10h. 46m., A. M., (mean time at Washington), it will leave the earth at Massawa, on the Red Sea. The end of the eclipse will be about an hour later.

APRIL FIRST.—The month of April derives its name from sunny sources, the most reasonable of which is the Latin verb, "aperire," to open, because the advancing Spring now begins to unclose everything and to open the earth to the prolific changes of the season of crops. The origin of the customs peculiar to the first day of the month, is lost in the mists of antiquity. These customs prevail in India and the East, and throughout Europe. By some, the day is supposed to be observed in memory of the mockery of the Saviour by the Jews, in sending Him back and forth, between the high priest and Herod and Pilate. But whatever may have been its origin, the ceremonial at present has degenerated into the lowest and most absurd of practical jokes, as meaningless as they are provoking. Among the ancient Irish of April Fool's day, is one related of Rabelais. It is said that being at Marseilles and of funds, Rabelais desired to go to Paris. He filled vials with dust, and labelled them as poison for the royal family. These were placed where they were discovered. Rabelais was arrested and carried by the police to Paris, when the jest was made public, causing much mirth in that ordinarily melancholy city, much to the discomfiture of the detectives, who had "worked up" a plot of the most incendiary nature.

CONVICT.—At Randolph (N. C.) Superior Court, held last week in Asheboro, the Rev. Daniel Ward was tried for circulating a book of an incendiary character known as "Helter's Impending Crisis," and convicted. Judge Bailey sentenced the prisoner to be imprisoned one year. He said that at the discretion of the Court he might be placed in the pillory and whipped. The defence have carried the matter up to the Supreme Court. The prisoner failing to give the required bond of \$2000, was remanded back to prison.

STOP HIM!—\$200 REWARD!—Runaway from the subscriber this morning, April 5th, 1860, a negro man, LEWIS, about 20 years old, of medium size, rather handsome, and quite black. He has a fresh cut on his head, near the top, clothing not known. I will give two hundred dollars reward if taken out of the State of Virginia; fifty dollars if taken in any of the adjoining counties in this State; and twenty-five dollars if taken in this county, and delivered to me. My residence is near "Piedmont Station." CHARLES M. GIBSON.

FAVORABLE COUNTRY, for sale by SWEET POTATO SLIPS, for sale by MEADE & MARYE, mh 30 Seed Store, No. 25, King street.

CONGRESS.

[REPORTED FOR THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.]

Senate, Thursday, April 5.

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution that the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire whether any contracts have been made by the War Department, for iron for public buildings, shot, shell, and gun carriages for the army, without authority of law; and if so, the amount furnished and the prices paid therefor, and authorizing the committee to send for persons and papers.

Mr. Mason moved to take up the joint resolution providing for the reception of the Japanese embassy, as ordered, and the resolution was passed.

The Indian appropriation bill being taken up, on motion of Mr. Hunter—

Mr. Latham offered an amendment to give the management of California Indians to the State of California.

Mr. Latham argued at considerable length, that if the State had the management of the Indians within their borders, it could manage them in a much more effective and economical manner than the General Government can do it, and at the same time do complete justice to the Indians.

The bill having arrived for the consideration of the special order,—the Homestead bill.

Mr. Hunter, of Va., moved to postpone the special order.

The Senate refused, by a vote of 30 to 25 to postpone the special order, and accordingly took up the Homestead bill, pending which

Mr. Kennedy, of Md., introduced a bill to authorize the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to extend their road to, and across the Potomac river, by an extension of the Long Bridge, which bill was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Various amendments were offered to the Homestead bill, and its provisions were discussed at length by Messrs. Brown, of Mississippi, Wigfall, of Texas, and Green, of Missouri.

Use bill to prevent and prohibit the practice of polygamy in the Territories of the United States, &c., was read the first and second time, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Pugh, of Ohio, moved that when the Senate adjourn, it be to meet on Saturday next, which motion was not agreed to; yeas 21, nays 29.

On motion of Mr. Mason, the Senate then went into executive session, after which it adjourned.

House of Representatives.

Mr. Sherman, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department during the fiscal year ending 30th of June, 1861; referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

The House resumed the consideration of the anti-polygamy bill.

Mr. Nelson, who yesterday yielded for a motion to adjourn, continued the remarks commenced by him at that time. He argued that Congress had the right to declare that not a certain, which had been declared by the law of God, and he differed with the gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. Keitt), who drew a distinction between malum in se and malum prohibitum, and held that polygamy was not only a crime in itself, but one that was to be prohibited by Congressional legislation. In conclusion, he said the existence of this evil in Utah was a reflection upon the moral sentiment of the whole country, and a disgrace to the intelligent and virtuous women of our land, who nursed them in their infancy, cared for them in their manhood, attended them in their sickness and strewn flowers upon their graves.

Mr. Hooper, the Delegate from Utah, said at the proper time, which would soon come, and when he could be heard without prejudice, he would defend the people of Utah from the calumnies which had been heaped upon them. In the mean time he appealed to the dispassionate and unbiased judgment of the House to think better of the one hundred thousand of their fellow-creatures than had been represented by their enemies. It was not his intention to discuss the peculiar features of the bill; but he respectfully asked the gentlemen were they prepared to meet the consequences. Were we not now emerging from difficulties with the people at whom this bill was aimed? He warned gentlemen that the feelings of the people of Utah were easily aroused.

The suspicion of hostilities against them had been already; and he was glad to know there was a better feeling now than formerly. But if this bill be passed, if its provisions be carried out, those angry passions will revive, and wither at the core. In reply to a question propounded by Mr. Clark, of Mo., he said that from an observation of ten years residence in Utah, he could say that not over one half of the population of Utah were polygamists, and probably not more than half of them have more than one wife each. He knew of no church regulation that compelled women to marry; she was left to exercise her own free will in the matter.

The House then proceeded to vote upon the bill, and pending amendments.

The bill was then read a third time, and passed, by a vote of yeas 143, nays 60.

Mr. Sickles, of New York, called up Mr. Williamson